

PARKS & RECREATION

SUMMARY OF LEVEL OF SERVICES INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CITIES TO DATE

City of Burien parks and recreation services are coordinated by Burien's Parks Department, which integrates parks, arts, recreation, senior and community services. This combination allows Burien to serve residents of all ages with a variety of services depending on their needs, ages and financial ability and promote genuine community connections across areas. The programs include a variety of adult, preschool, youth, teen & special population programs & camps and after-school activities. Burien's policies include: responding to evolving needs and interests of all members of the community; joint facilities and programs with schools when possible; coordinate with other service providers and expand the arts, crafts and performance classes and programs; and increase park maintenance and renovation to improve usage, safety and operational efficiency

Burien has over 300 acres of parks and open space it owns and manages. Fifty acres have been added in the past five years. Burien operates a regional park at Seahurst, soccer and ball fields at Moshier and a number of well-maintained neighborhood parks. Burien has also invested in school ball fields in partnership with the Highline School District and has added soccer and softball or baseball facilities in all of its neighborhoods. Like North Highline, Burien incorporated with a strong concern that its neighborhood parks be better cared for than the County's level of maintenance. The level of service Burien defined for North Highline is the same as is used for Burien today. (For Level of Service details, see Governance Study Community Meeting Report, September 15, 2005, amended 9/22/05.)

Sources:

Governance Study Community Meeting, sponsored by the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, September 15, 2005, levels of City Services [with amendments 9/22/05], Nesbitt Planning & Management, Inc.
North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, Responses to Questions Asked of Seattle¹ and Burien² on October 20, 2005

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The City of Seattle provides programs and services that support children and youth on a city-wide basis. These programs will be made available to residents of areas annexed into the City of Seattle. Programs/services include: a variety of adult, preschool, youth, teen & special population programs & camps; and after school activities, community center classes and Kidsplace(s).

Policies include: Equitable distribution of variety (listed in policy) of park types; Joint facilities and programs with schools when possible; and Coordination with other service providers. Seattle also provides neighborhood matching funds for parks improvements.

The future funding of park and open space (acquisition and operation & maintenance) are ongoing discussions. Over the next two to three year period, Seattle will explore various options, including a possible levy, for the acquisition and operation & maintenance of parks and open space on a city-wide basis.

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